

**15.114 Microenterprise development advisory committee.**

1. The department shall establish, administer, and regularly convene a microenterprise development advisory committee.

2. The committee shall include at least ten but not more than fifteen members representing government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private sector entities that have expertise and a demonstrated interest in the development of microenterprises.

3. The committee shall study and make recommendations to the department and the general assembly on the design and implementation of a competitive grant program in support of community efforts to develop microenterprises within communities with low-income and moderate-income residents.

a. The committee shall make recommendations for improving the mechanisms for connecting community grantees with available microenterprise and entrepreneurship resources. The recommendations shall include standardized applications for participation in the community microenterprise development organization grant program\* and standardized applications for obtaining funding from various state and federal microenterprise and entrepreneurship development programs.

b. The committee shall make recommendations to grantees regarding the development of an entrepreneurship and business education program. The program shall be designed to enhance entrepreneurial skills, develop business acumen, increase marketing skills, and improve financial literacy.

c. In making its recommendations, the committee shall focus on creating a strong network of programs and shall ensure that the needs of both rural and urban communities are being met.

4. The committee shall by January 31 of each year report to the department and the general assembly on the progress of microenterprise development in Iowa and on its recommendations for the community microenterprise development organization grant program.

2008 Acts, ch 1178, §4

\*Microenterprise development organization grant program, see §15.240